(c) whether such a project is proposed to be „ntroduced in other parts of the country also; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINIS'! *2R* OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE fDR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) No Sir, ho such facility exists presently in "Delhi. However, there is a web-site www. Lifcsavers freeservers. com. which proposes to maintain a blood donors directory.

(b) The directory is not yet operational.

(c) and (d) This project is an experimental project taken *up* by a non-governmental organisation and its working needs to be reviewed before introducing it in other cities.

Iodine deficient districts

678. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scientific report as to h w many districts in the country arc deficient in Iodine content;

(b) whether it is a fact that only about swenty-five districts have been fou;;d to be «o deficient; and

(c) if so, whether any decision, in the past was taken to ensure the sale of only iodiled salt all over the country and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA
VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per surveys ..onducted by the directorate Genera' of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and other medical institutions in 282 districts covering 25 States and 5 UTs, 241 districts have been found to be uidemic i.e. where the prevalence of iodine deficiency disorders i? more than 10 per cent.

(c) Yes, Sir. A notification under the PFA Rules was issued whereby, w.e.f. 27.5.1998, sale of iodised salt wa& made compulsory for direct human consumption.